

Appl. No. 10/769,256
Amdt. Dated December 19, 2007
Reply to Office Action Mailed September 21, 2007

Amendments to the drawings

The attached sheet of drawing includes changes to FIG. 2. This sheet, including FIG. 2, replaces the original drawing sheet that included FIG. 2. In amended FIG. 2, a printing device 25 has been added. This amendment is supported by paragraph [0013]; and claims 4-6 of the originally filed specification. Approval of these amendments is earnestly requested.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet

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REMARKS

The Remarks are in response to the Office Action mailed September 21, 2007. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's careful review and consideration of the present application.

The specification and FIG. 2 has been amended. The amendments are based on, e.g., paragraph [0013]; and claims 4-6 of the originally filed specification.

Claim 1 is amended. The amendment of the claim 1 is supported by e.g., paragraph [0013]; and claims 4-6 of the originally filed specification.

No new matter is added by these amendments.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ukai et al (US 6,254,244).

In response to the rejection of claim 1, Applicant has amended claim 1 and otherwise respectfully traverses this rejection. As such, Applicant submits that claim 1 is novel, unobvious, and patentable over Ukai et al.

Claim 1, as currently amended, recites:

“An apparatus for manufacturing a printed light guide plate,
comprising:
a working platform...;
a heater...; and

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a printing device disposed above the working platform, the printing device being configured for printing a plurality of scattering dots on the second surface of the transparent slab.”
(Emphasis added)

Applicant submits that such an apparatus, as set forth in amended claim 1, is not taught, suggested or disclosed by Ukai et al., at least for the following reasons:

Ukai et al presents a luminaire 4 and a display 1 using the same. The display 1 includes a casing 2, a liquid crystal panel 3, a luminaire 4, and a light guiding plate 5. The casing 2 supports the liquid crystal panel 3. The luminaire 4 includes a controllable auto-heating type heat source 7. However, Ukai et al does not even discuss the use of the apparatus thereof relative to any sort of printing set-up. Thus, Ukai et al. clearly fails to disclose or suggest that “a printing device disposed above the working platform, the printing device being configured for printing a plurality of scattering dots on the second surface of the transparent slab”, as per claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1 is novel, unobvious and patentable under both 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103 over Ukai et al or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claim 3 depends directly on claim 1, which is asserted to be in condition for allowance under §102 and §103 as detailed above.

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Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 3 is also novel, unobvious and patentable under both 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103 over Ukai et al or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ukai et al.

Claim 3 depends directly on claim 1, which is asserted to be in condition for allowance under §102 and §103, as detailed above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 3 is also patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Ukai et al or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination.

Claims Not Addressed

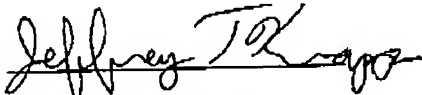
In the Office Action Summary of the Office Action, claim 2 is included as being among rejected claims. However, no ground of rejection for claim 2 has been appropriately set forth in the current Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 2 set forth allowable subject matter, since no prior art was applied against claim 2. Additionally, Applicant contends that **the next Office Action cannot be made Final** (MPEP § 706.07(a)), **if claim 2 is subjected to a prior art rejection.** Such a rejection would constitute a new ground of rejection that was not necessitated by amendment, as claim 2 remains unchanged from the prior response by Applicant.

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In view of the foregoing, the present application as defined in the pending claims is considered to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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